

Collection policy

Holdings

Through its Department, Data Services for the Social Sciences (DSS), GESIS offers access to a collection of more than 7,000 accessible studies (as of May 2023). About a quarter of this collection comprises of studies from high-profile survey programs produced by or with the participation of GESIS like the German General Social Survey Allbus (GESIS Collection), and three quarters are German and international studies forming the GESIS Community Data Collection.

With these collections, we record and preserve important social science data of today for the wider research community and future generations. The complete holdings represent a rich spectrum of research topics and methodological approaches. This includes valuable empirical information on core social science research topics, such as political attitudes and behavior, education, migration, or family.

The department provides access to the GESIS Collection and the GESIS Community Data Collection mainly through the GESIS Search for discovery and access. It designs and employs access regimes tailored to meet the needs of the user community. We guarantee the legal, ethical, and technical requirements for data access, e.g., in the case of sensitive data.

Selection criteria

- GESIS publishes research data that are suitable for answering questions relevant to the social sciences.
- The data collection is comprehensible and documented, e.g., via a methodology description.
- The data is processed and documented in such a way that they can be re-used (e.g., for secondary analysis) without major effort. Preparation here means that the data can be analyzed with common statistical analysis software. The variables should be fully labelled, the missing values comprehensible and any weighting variables sufficiently documented.¹
- The data are 'quantitative'.
- The data was collected based on a valid legal basis such as informed consent. The legal basis is verified when submitting the data.
- There is no thematic focus for inclusion in the Community Data Collection, but we support permanent and ad-hoc topical collections such as 'Social inequality and poverty' or 'COVID-19'.

GESIS cooperates nationally and internationally with other data-holding institutions to ensure the best possible access to research results for users. Cooperation may also include the recommendation of a partner institution where your data can be given higher visibility or more specific support (e.g. qualitative surveys).

Cologne, May 2023

(Note: Please see German version for the official statement.)

¹ GESIS offers quality enhancing Data Services. Please visit our website at www.gesis.org/en/data-services.